



MICHIGAN

To: Honorable Members of the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee

From: Amanda Fisher, Assistant State Director

Date: January 25, 2012

RE: House Bills 5085 & 5086 – Prohibit Collection of PAC Contributions by a Public Employer

We are writing to you to ask for your support of House Bills 5085 and 5086 that would prohibit a public employer from collecting PAC contributions for a labor organization.

Payroll deductions of political contributions should not be allowed by any public employer. To suggest that this issue be decided by collective bargaining is not realistic given the unique relationship between the employer and employee that exists in the public sector.

Governmental units, both state and local, are not effective in most collective bargaining venues on issues such as payroll deduction of PAC contributions. This is because there is an inherent conflict of interest when many of the parties that are supposed to be representing the taxpayer are elected or appointed with the help of employer representatives such as organized labor.

It is the duty of the legislature to protect the taxpayer in this situation by determining the items that may be the subject of collective bargaining. Without this important check on union power, unsustainable public employee benefits and compensation will continue to threaten the financial integrity of our public institutions.

Again we ask you to support HBs 5085 and 5086.

Thank you for your support of small business.